



ROMA INCLUDED

in the Sustainable Development Goals

Discussion paper



February 2019

Published by

ERGO Network



The European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network is a network of Roma and pro-Roma NGOs across Europe and advocates for better policies for Roma in Europe, combats antigypsyism and empowers Roma activists.

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This publication has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>. The information contained in this report does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.



Graphics by www.visuality.eu

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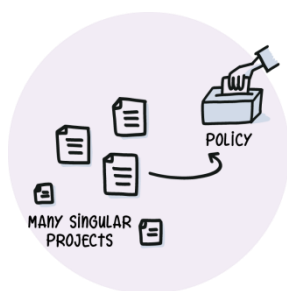
1 Introduction

The objective of this discussion paper is to trigger debate among Roma activists on how to engage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More than three years after the proclamation of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹, the SDGs can provide opportunities for advancing the inclusion of Roma and for countering antigypsyism. Almost all of the 17 global goals are closely connected to the needs of Roma communities – from accessing clean drinking water and affordable energy to quality education and employment, from reducing inequalities to peace, justice and strong institutions.

In order to use the opportunities the 2030 Agenda can provide, the Roma rights movement needs to become familiar with the SDGs, identify strategic entry points for advocacy and develop guidelines for local action. The aim of this paper is to orient future action of (pro-) Roma civil society at European, member state and sub-national level.



Roma rights advocates are defining strategic entry points into the SDG Agenda.



In that respect, Roma rights advocates should be reminded that the Decade of Roma Inclusion, which signified a progress from 'projects to policies' in the field, had been triggered by the 2030 Agenda's predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals.² The Sustainable Development Goals could mean an even stronger impetus for the fight against antigypsyism and the inclusion of Roma, as they take into account issues such as participation and inequality. If this is to be achieved, the time is now to prepare to translate these issues into the language of the new multilateral agenda.

The paper aims to give an orientation in order to better understand the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. As a first step this includes reflecting on the aim of the SDGs (1.1), their origin (1.2), their mechanisms (1.3) and their relation to other European policy and rights frameworks (1.4). The paper then moves on to relate the SDGs with the Roma rights agenda and identifies topics (2.1), processes (2.2) and potential actions (2.3) that can support the Roma rights movement in the fight against antigypsyism.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

² For a reflection on the linkages of the Decade of Roma Inclusion with the multilateral agenda, including the MDGs, see: Iskra Kirova 2007. The Decade of Roma Inclusion: Addressing Racial Discrimination Through Development, in UN Chronicle Vol. XLIV No. 3 2007; unchronicle.un.org/article/decade-roma-inclusion-addressing-racial-discrimination-through-development

1.1 The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, after years of preparation, Heads of State and Government in a historic UN summit signed a joint declaration under the motto 'Transforming our World', the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs), each with specific targets and indicators. These new goals, which replace the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), apply to *all* countries worldwide and should trigger efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change. They recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, housing, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

The 2030 Agenda combines political declarations with technical measurements.

The 2030 Agenda has a **universal, albeit unbinding, character. They provide a comprehensive goals set, which is universal yet measurable at local level.** With signing the Agenda, all UN Member States pledged to 'leave no one behind' and steward the '5Ps' – planet, prosperity, people, peace and partnership.



PEOPLE



PLANET



PROSPERITY



PEACE



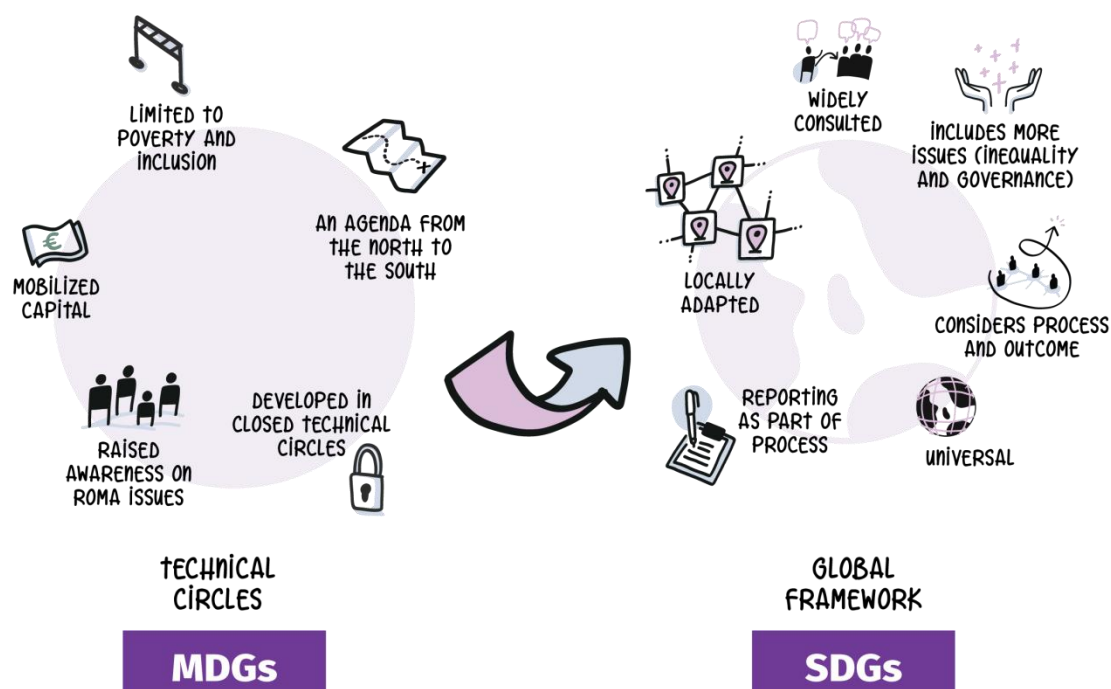
PARTNERSHIP



The SDGs do not constitute rights, but generate moral and political obligations through measurable evidence.

The declaration of the 2030 Agenda as such is a high-level political text from which no legal obligation derives. However, they have an intrinsic mechanism of combining moral and political objectives with technical measurement. This equips the SDGs with the power to hold governments accountable for their outcomes.

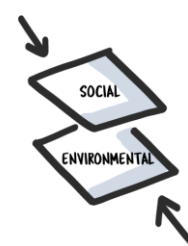
1.2 From the MDGs to the SDGs: continuity and disruption



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals as the new global framework in a context of decreasing strength of multilateral governance. A comparison of the MDGs and the SDGs allows to better understand the dynamics and the contents of each of the successive frameworks.

The MDGs (2000-2015) had been conceived in small technical circles and then socialised within the UN and development agencies, up to their unexpected popularity. The MDGs had serious shortcomings: Amongst others, these are the absence of targets on democratic governance and processes of how to get to the defined outcomes, namely effective public administration. Likewise, migration, non-discrimination and minority rights were left out. The MDGs were also an agenda 'from the North for the South', without looking at problems such as poverty in 'developed' countries. Finally, the MDGs did not include issues of the Rio 1992 agenda such as climate change and desertification.

However, they have made an enormous contribution to raising public awareness, increasing political will and mobilising resources for the fight to end poverty. It is widely acknowledged that, besides the favourable environment towards multilateralism in the 1990's, they owe their impact to a combination of simplicity in the communication and rigour in the measurement.



In the SDGs, the social and the environmental agenda merge and are 'localized' for each country.

The SDGs attempt to overcome the above mentioned shortcomings:

- They combine the social with the environmental dimension.
- They have been conceived in a large-scale global participatory process about ‘the world we want’.
- They include issues of process, as well as the more ‘political’ matters of security, conflict, transparency and democratic participation.
- They are also a global agenda, which applies to all governments, with ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’.

In that sense the SDGs represent a genuine global framework of social security and environmental protection. However, they are far more complex than the MDGs. A whole system of technical details allows for an interdisciplinary approach, but makes communication more difficult. Likewise, the ‘return of realism’ in international politics has weakened multilateralism and the UN’s ability to propose binding policy and measurement frameworks.

MDGs (2000-2015)



SDGs (2015-30)



MDGs

SDGs

Conceived in closed technical circles	➔	Widely consulted with civil society
Focused on social outcomes	➔	Combines social and environmental agenda
	➔	Considers process <i>and</i> outcome
Easy to communicate	➔	Complex set of goals and procedures
Limited to poverty and inclusion	➔	Includes: governance, security, inequality
From the 'North' for the 'South'	➔	Universal, but to be locally adapted

For European countries, the major difference is that the goals have actually arrived to Europe. The MDGs were largely a set of goals 'from the North for the South'. The SDGs are defined as universal but are to be locally adapted: each public administration (be it state or municipality) in all countries worldwide are to orient their action on the SDGs and report against them. They establish certain minimums, both relatively as compared to general living standards in the country as well as absolutely measured by globally shared indicators. It is the combination of these two dimensions – a locally adapted and specifically measurable commitment and a reference to a universal framework – which gives thrive to the SDGs.



However, the legacy of the MDGs, with their paternalistic angle to 'develop' the South, still confines much of the attention for the SDGs to small circles of international development cooperation actors. Only now European social rights activists manage to reframe the 2030 Agenda towards domestic issues of poverty, inequalities and exclusion.

The SDGs are also relevant for Europe, as they speak about poverty, exclusion and inequality.

In the near future, the SDGs will become more relevant, once they permeate domestic planning and measurement.

It has to be acknowledged that there is a natural back-log for localising the SDGs. On the one hand, after the intense negotiation of goals and targets from 2012 to 2015, the details of some of the indicators and how to measure them are still being defined. On the other hand, national and regional planning frameworks have a time horizon of about 3 to 10 years. Only when these come to an end, new frameworks can take into account the SDGs. As an example, the Europe 2020 strategy with

its targets on employment, research, climate change, education and social inclusion³ is still in place until 2020. The post-Juncker Commission will have to express how to align the next EU strategy with the SDGs and their results and measurement framework. The same happens at national and regional level in all countries. This means that, once the SDGs are integrated into national planning frameworks and become part of national policies, the pressure to implement them increases.

1.3 The mechanics of the SDGs

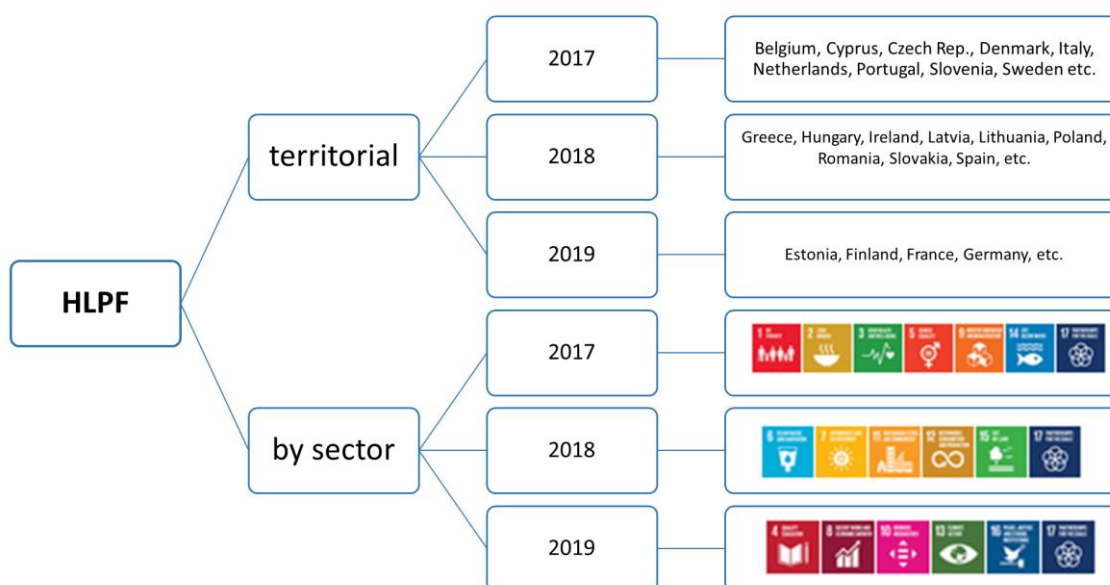
The SDGs are defined in goals, targets and indicators. Each goal has a UN agency or another multilateral body as ‘proprietor’, which is responsible for the definition of indicators and their measurement.



An annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF) provides space for follow-up. There are cyclical sectorial (per topic) and territorial (per country) reporting procedures. Each year a third of the goals is revised in-depth on global level. Territorially, each country reports every three years on their progress through the mechanism of Voluntary National Reviews. This gives room for respective shadow reports by civil society.⁴

³ See https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/framework/europe-2020-strategy_en

⁴ Find all Voluntary National Reviews in English and the respective local language on this website: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/



On the one hand, triggered by the Voluntary National Reviews most – but not all - nation states have started to localize the agenda in budget and policies at national, regional and municipal level. On the other hand, a great number of the indicators are still under debate. There is no doubt that the SDG framework will gain weight, as awareness and adherence are rising. National planning divisions see themselves obliged to adhere to the international reporting standards. Likewise public knowledge about the SDGs increases, as they are more and more established as a common language worldwide, aided by their digestible pictography.

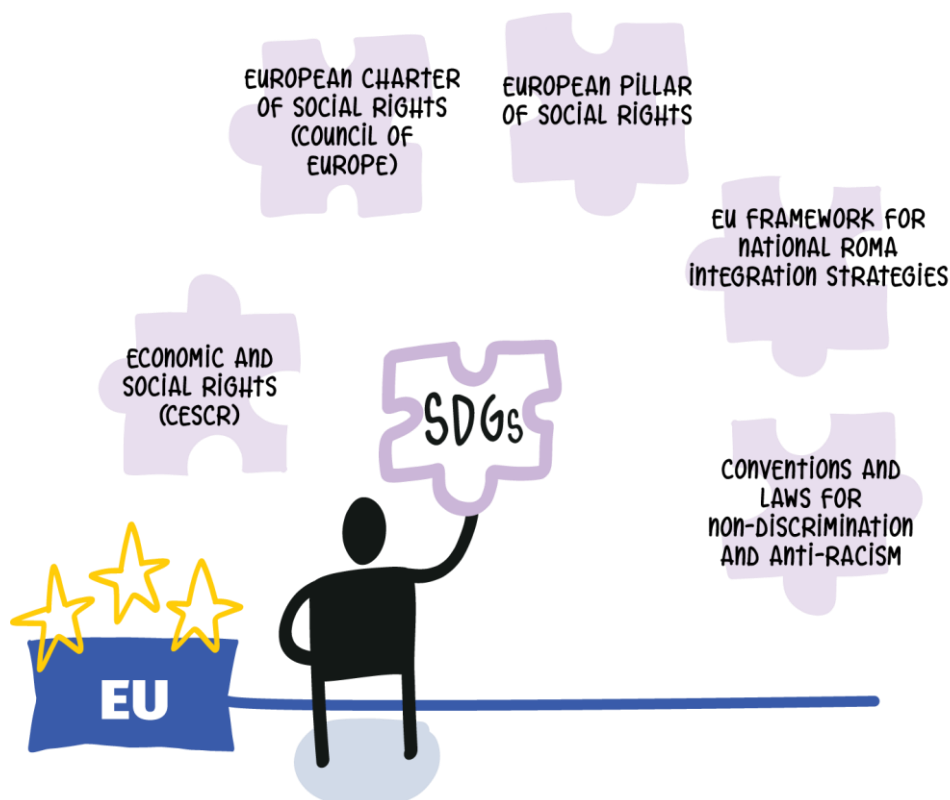
1.4 Europe and the SDGs

The EU has played an important role in shaping the Agenda 2030 and should continue to play a leading role when moving into the implementation. The European Institutions should push member states towards aligning their policies and measurement mechanisms with the SDG framework as well as incorporating the SDGs into EU policies and programmes.

Currently the EU institutions are called upon to including the SDGs in new political target sets, such as the recently formulated European Pillar of Social Rights and the next EU programming cycle from 2020-2027, including the next EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS). The Sustainable Development Goals should be included in the Social Scoreboard that monitors Member States' performance in relation to the Pillar of Social Rights. This inclusion has an impact both on the definition of policy goals and budget allocation of future policies, as well as on the organisation of civil society participation and oversight.

At the same time, the SDGs have linkages in content and processes to obligations that EU member states acquired through International Human Rights Conventions, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) or the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, amongst others. Furthermore the

regional rights frameworks within the Council of Europe, such as the European Social Charter, have important overlaps with the SDGs. Their respective monitoring mechanisms and civil society shadow reporting need to be linked to the SDG framework.



Civil society engagement, however, will suffer fatigue if too many consultations for the multiplying number of frameworks will be held. There should be a tendency to make them overlap and align. This can be difficult due to the fact that some of the above mentioned frameworks constitute legal obligations, which can be claimed and enforced, whilst the others do not.



Linking international and European human rights obligations to the wider discourse of the SDGs is an additional step to give substance to the lofty high-level commitment that the 2030 Agenda constitutes. However, one should not underestimate the power of data. Data about countries, regions and population groups will be better accessible through the SDG agenda. This provides an additional useful tool to hold European governments to account. To that end, civil society groups across Europe need to develop the capacities for linking social rights to statistical interpretation in order to claim the rights of their constituencies, particularly of minorities.⁵

It is not yet clear how the SDGs will connect to human rights and their monitoring mechanisms.

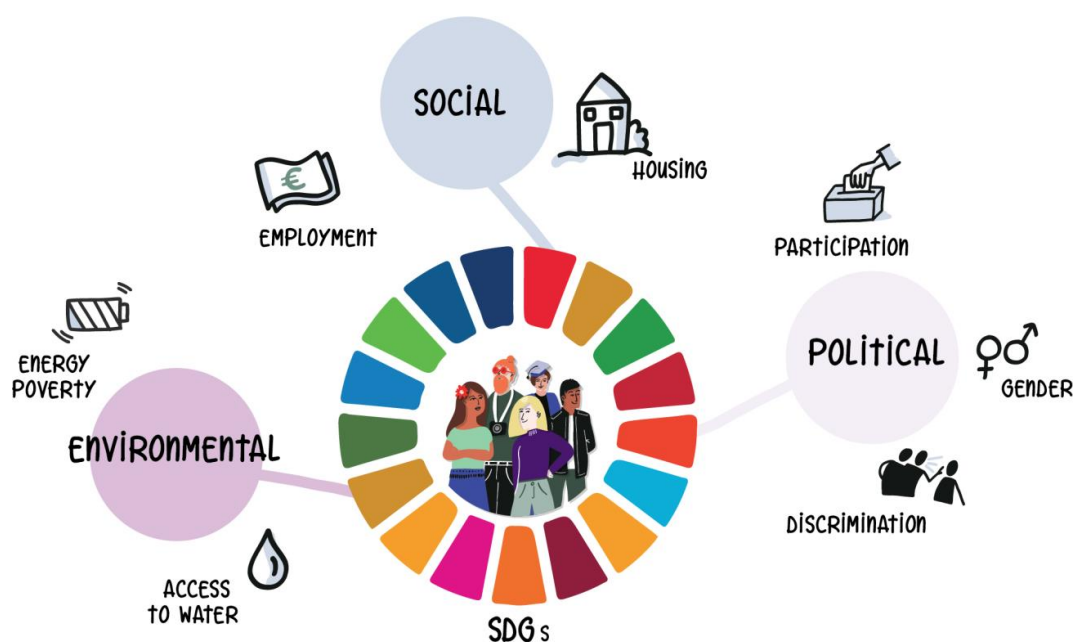
⁵ See: CESR 2018. Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2018 <http://www.cesr.org/spotlight-sustainable-development-2018>

2 SDGs and Roma

Roma are the largest minority in Europe and face significant social exclusion and poverty as well as discrimination. Antigypsyism⁶ is the underlying reason for both of these. Since 2011, the European institutions have promoted the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) that has brought Roma issues to the agenda, triggered some policy action but had a rather limited impact in terms of improving the living conditions in health, education, housing and employment as well as tackling the cross-cutting issues of antigypsyism and Roma empowerment. The SDGs can provide an additional avenue to push for more effective policy-making and implementation for Roma inclusion and combatting antigypsyism.

2.1 Inclusion of Roma and combatting antigypsyism through the SDGs

The annex provides a comprehensive selection of Sustainable Development Goals, their targets and indicators. Almost all of them are of immediate relevance for the Roma population. The SDGs can be clustered in three different dimensions:



The EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and their national monitoring frameworks neatly align to the social components of the SDGs: health can be found in goal 3, education in goal 4, employment in goal 8 and housing in goal 11. However, the main challenge consists in disaggregating the situation in



⁶ See: Reference Paper on Antigypsyism, 2016 www.antigypsyism.eu

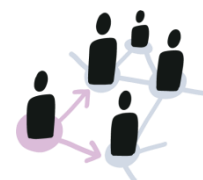
the living conditions and access to public services by ethnic group. Only when data is broken down by ethnicity, antigypsyism can be dealt with as a cross-cutting issue across those SDGs.



While a lot of data needs to be disaggregated, ethnic disaggregation still seems to be an exclusive assignment for the 'Global South', with EU Member States reluctant to follow. It is unlikely that in the near future the surveys that inform the national SDG reporting – such as the household surveys on living conditions or the labour force survey – will be broken down by ethnic origin, which would allow a rigorous reporting on SDGs and Roma.

Of all the above dimensions of the SDGs, the political dimension is most underdeveloped in the discussion on the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. Whilst there are tokenistic mechanisms of participation in place on all levels of the European multilevel governance, it does not sufficiently impact policy-making and service design.

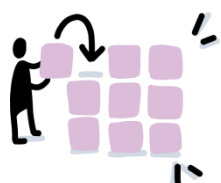
The new pivotal character of indicators in the SDG framework definitely reinforces a change in this dynamic and participation of the target group in policy-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation will hopefully be taken more seriously in the future.



The dimension of antigypsyism can be found in Goal 10 (Reducing Inequalities) and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). In order to tackle it as underlying cause of exclusion, however, disaggregated data by ethnicity for all goals is necessary. Also the agenda of gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence can encounter new allies in the SDG community.



The environmental agenda has some very direct opportunities related to access to clean water and energy. Aligned with goals 11 and 12, the European institutions are pushing for circular economy and low-carbon industries. This could provide employment opportunities in the low-skilled and mid-skilled sector. A counter-positioning of a lower or higher carbon-footprint of Roma and non-Roma population, however, would lead to dangerous essentialist conceptions.



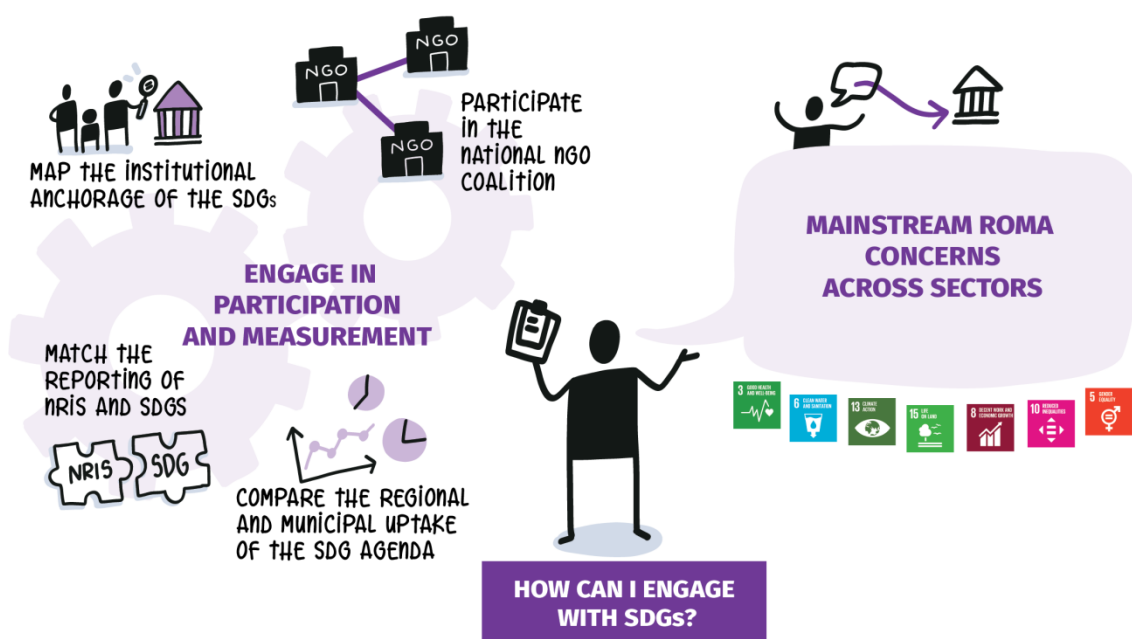
It is of great importance that the Post-2020 NRIS, which are to be defined for the period 2020-2027, are aligned with the SDG framework.⁷ This is not so much important for the NRIS, but more so to get the issues of Roma inclusion and antigypsyism into the larger SDG debate. **If Roma issues are not conveyed in the SDG jargon and its mechanics, they are far more likely to fall off the agenda.**

⁷ EC 2018 Evaluation of the EU framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020 - SWD(2018)480 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1544109661990&uri=CELEX%3A52018SC0480>

2.2 What opportunities do the SDGs provide?

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs provide an opportunity to foster the inclusion of Roma populations and the fight against antigypsyism. In general, the SDGs represent a tool for (pro-) Roma civil society to mainstream Roma issues across sectors, to put them into a truly global context, to create a greater audience and therefore increase pressure and, most importantly, to hold governments to account.

They do so in two ways – both substantially and procedurally.



Substantially, the SDGs open a renewed perspective on the sectors – such as health (SDG3), education (SDG4), housing (SDG11) and employment (SDG8). They also give way to tackling the cross-cutting issues of poverty (SDG1), hunger (SDG2), gender equality (SDG5) and inequality (SDG10). Even though Roma are not specifically mentioned in any of the SDGs, the issues addressed greatly overlap with the needs of Roma communities across Europe and open another avenue for civil society to put pressure on governments in order to improve the living conditions of Roma.

Much debate has been spent on how to integrate the dimension of discrimination into the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. This has been responded to with the inclusion of both targets and measurements that disaggregate according to ethnicity. However, whether this is being taken



seriously is dependent on civil society oversight that requests accountability and positive action from the state as duty holder.

Understanding the logic of the SDGs and holding on the opportunities will make the claims of (pro-) Roma civil society stronger within a global framework of multilateral governance.

Examples for such kind of engagement within the substantial aspect would be:

Health: Goal 3. – ‘Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’ includes minimum 4 targets relevant for Roma. For example, target 3.8 – ‘Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all’ is an excellent opportunity to raise the issue of lack of access to health care and to essential drugs by members of the Roma community. Particularly the issue of migrant Roma and EU mobile Roma in their access to, mainly Western European, health care systems is critical. No government would want to see a black spot in this indicator due to the formal or de-facto exclusion of Roma. Whilst this is a procedural target, most of the other targets are focused on outcomes. This provides for an attractive template to compare the Roma population against their peers, whenever reliable and disaggregated data on the health status is available. In addition, specific indicators should be developed to target manifestations of antigypsyism in health care, especially visible in the way Romani women are treated in maternity wards and in general the access of Roma to health insurance and the ways they are treated by the services.



Education: Education is addressed in goal 4. – ‘Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’. The targets are highly relevant for Roma, as they concern free, accessible and quality development, care and education for Roma, from early childhood development, care and education to university education. The emphasis is also put on gender and youth, and sectors such as entrepreneurship and issues such as literacy and numeracy are spelled out (see target 4.4, for example: “By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”). There is also an acknowledgment of human rights and gender equality education, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development (Target 4.7).



Housing: Housing is addressed in goal 11., ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’. Decent and affordable housing is a right in itself and a precondition for the fulfilment of other rights in fields such as education, health and employment. Roma children will not perform in school when living in crowded spaces. Substandard housing leads to ill-health. Access to mainstream employment is more difficult without sanitary facilities or when living in segregated neighbourhoods. Competences for housing run straight through all levels of governance, from municipal up to European. Housing is the one area where less progress has been made in the NRIS.⁸ Decent and affordable housing is measured by indicators such as deprivation, overcrowding, ability to keep the house warm, or overburden from cost. These data are readily available in standards household surveys.⁹ There is also another dimension, which is the spatial segregation, both urban and rural. Decent housing has been declared as a principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights.¹⁰ Specifically, the municipal level through urban planning and targeted investment in neighbourhoods can reconvert slums and informal settlements. With cost for rent and houses skyrocketing all over Europe and forced evictions, discrimination at the housing market and various other manifestations of antigypsyism in housing spreading as anti-social practices, this agenda is becoming more and more important. SDG 11, led by UN-Habitat, allows putting the issue on the agenda. It also puts the issues of access to transport systems and participatory planning and management related to urbanization processes, as well as air quality and municipal and other waste management on the 2030 agenda. Moreover, Roma activists might focus on national level on certain landmark projects, for example reconverting urban planning horrors such as Lunik IX in Kosice, Ferentari district in Bucharest or some rural areas at the Slovak-Hungarian border. At municipal level, desegregation, refurbishing houses for better energy efficiency and sanitation and the upgrading of public spaces are interventions that can be claimed by referring to SDG 11. The system of housing benefits and social assistance could be claimed by as well, for example by developing projects to monitor record and report on the inclusiveness and effectiveness.



Access to water: Water has been given a specific goal – number 6. Target 6.1 ‘Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’ puts the issue of substandard housing and segregated areas on the agenda. Many Roma suffer disproportionately from the failures of public authorities to secure access to water and sanitation. According to the UNDP, “improved water



⁸ As detailed in the latest Mid-Term Review of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration strategies https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/roma-and-eu/mid-term-evaluation-eu-framework-nris_en.

⁹ See Eurostat’s housing data https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Housing_statistics.

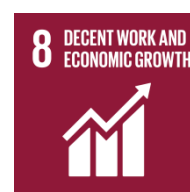
¹⁰ European Pillar of Social Rights: “19. Housing and assistance for the homeless: (a.) Access to social housing or housing assistance of good quality shall be provided for those in need. (b.) Vulnerable people have the right to appropriate assistance and protection against forced eviction. (c.) Adequate shelter and services shall be provided to the homeless in order to promote their social inclusion.”

sources, defined as having piped water inside the dwelling, are not available to almost one third of Roma households surveyed throughout the region”.¹¹ In some European countries, Roma and non-Roma experience problems with the drinking water supply and sanitation in the same way; in other countries, however, Romani households remain without water and sewerage due to discrimination. Even if it is likely that European Union member states will make progress towards recognizing the human right to drinking water¹², antigypsyism among public authorities may however remain a significant obstacle for Roma to enjoy their rights.

Environmental targets such as those related to carbon footprint (13), land-use (15), and recycling (12) could be framed within a contraposition of Roma and non-Roma populations. This, however, will easily lead to an essentialist definition of a specific ‘Roma lifestyle’, which is neither accurate nor politically helpful. Environmental targets, however, are useful indicators to envision an environmentally sustainable and socially just transition. The ecological transformation of the society could generate opportunities that also impact on the Roma, be it through employment generation in Green jobs or new models of social protection, such as the universal basic income. No doubt, this is the debate to come and Roma advocates should search for their place. Furthermore in the environmental dimension the topic of environmental injustice should be brought up by Roma advocates. Closely connected also to goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and goal 3 (good wealth and well-being), the case of Roma communities living on toxic waste, for example, is certainly an issue that should be considered in the SDG agenda.



Employment (Goal 8) presents a rather broad set of targets and, when dissected with care, stands out against all others.¹³ Employment is in the core of the EU (social) policy and this has been transmitted into the EU NRIS framework and their respective national strategies. Work is an important gateway for full integration into society. However, patterns of employment and skills sets are changing rapidly. Beyond a mere unionist stand on arguing for a fairer distribution between capital and labour, the Roma policy community could contribute in two ways. First and more



¹¹ UNDP, Roma Housing Report, 2012, p. 23.

¹² The UN General Assembly, Resolution A/RES/58/217, available at: <http://www.un.org/es/comun/docs/?symbol=A/RES/58/217&lang=E>.

¹³ Goal 8 is basically a concession to the old-school trickle-down claim, promoted, amongst others, by the World Bank, which asserts that economic growth per-se is the best for the poor. Again, it also falls into the capitalist standard error of confusing means with ends. How post-growth and equality can be subsumed has been extensively debated in alternative measures ‘beyond GDP’ [see OECD 2018: Beyond GDP, Paris <http://www.oecd.org/social/beyond-gdp-9789264307292-en.htm>]. Furthermore, Goal 8 mixes two concepts – growth and decent work – which would better be treated separately.

immediately, bring up the discussion on how discrimination impedes skills development and employment opportunities. This would mean insisting that besides the classical conflict for fairer wages there are cross-cutting issues such as antigypsyism. Second and with a wider horizon, debate what the ‘future of work’ can mean for the Roma community.¹⁴

Inequality: Goal 10 on reducing inequalities should be an important entry-point for Roma into the SDG agenda. The majority of targets of goal 10 focus on reducing inequalities between countries, but it also looks at income growth of the bottom 40% inside countries, and in particular at the elimination of discriminatory policies and practices that hamper equality. Roma rights advocates should put specific emphasis on this target and its specific indicators, which are up for review in 2019.



Gender: Many targets call for specific action for women and girls and most of them for a disaggregated measurement. Furthermore, there is goal 5, which calls for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. A number of issues – such as violence and trafficking, domestic work, sexual and reproductive health, or access to economic resources – can be framed within the concerns of the Roma community. This is nothing new, but brings matters that have been fought for since decades, such as the Beijing Platform for Action or the Istanbul Convention, into a common set of measurement.¹⁵



**Engage in participation
and measurement
procedures**

Lastly, Roma networks and organisations can provide services that enable achieving the SDGs. In the future, any non-governmental organisation will have to be able to justify, when implementing public programmes, to what extent it contributes to achieving the SDGs.

¹⁴ The fixation of the European policies on ‘activation to work’ as only means for integration will soon be challenged, not at least by technological developments. Anyone who wants to enter in this debate should not only reflect on the access to labour, but likewise on the decency of work and the sense of vocation that lies between work and employment.

¹⁵ The Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995 approved the Beijing Platform, which made comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern for advancing women’s rights. <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/about>; The Istanbul Convention of 2011 is the instrument of the Council of Europe for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/

Procedurally, the SDGs provide a number of openings to engage with the public administration at all levels. **Participation procedures provide for actively pushing specific issues on the agenda on local, regional and national level.** Likewise, the design of universal goals but locally measurable indicators enables the access to data on ground policy performance, and gives opportunities to engage in reporting mechanisms.

Besides, based on the principle of partnership, the SDGs should not remain the responsibility of governments alone – also businesses and civil society are tasked with supporting the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

Apart of this, there are a number of goals and targets – namely with SDG 16 and 17 – that call for open government procedures and access to data. Crucial here for the Roma population is the disaggregation of data according to ethnicity as claimed for in the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Examples for engagement within the procedural aspect would be:

Participation in the National NGO coalition that shadow-report on the National Voluntary Review: In almost all countries a structure has already been developed in which the main NGOs, platforms and social movements across sectors debate the SDGs and contribute to a shadow report of the National Review. Participating in these platforms can ensure that Roma issues are included in the voluntary reviews and their shadow reports.



Mapping of responsibilities for the SDGs in the governmental set-up: The ‘ownership’ of the SDGs within the cabinet of ministers differs according to each country. In many countries the leadership is assigned to the Vice-presidency. This makes sense given the multi-sectorial character of the SDGs. In other countries, it lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an ineffective legacy of the MDGs. Again, other countries locate the responsibility with specific ministries, such as the ministry of environment. It is important to map the institutions, spaces and processes in order to know the actors and the opportunities. Like the executive, the national parliaments have commissions in which follow-up to SDGs is undertaken.



Match the reporting of NRIS and SDGs. National statistical authorities have started to report on the SDGs. The annual reports of the NRIS and the civil society shadow reporting, such as those undertaken by the Roma Civil



Monitor¹⁶, generate data on the living conditions of Roma and the achievement of the NRIS targets. A necessary task is to hold the two mechanisms against each other and inquire what sources of data generation is used. This is an important background for evidence generation that helps to orient programmes and advocacy.

Checking regional and municipal uptake of the SDG agenda and their relevance for Roma issues: Slowly the SDGs are arriving at cities and their governments. This occurs either in specific reports and plans or by mainstreaming the SDGs in the formulation of new strategies. Some countries have elaborated rankings of cities who comply with the SDGs in policies, actions and outcomes. These initiatives are driven mostly by NGO networks supported by academics.¹⁷ Many municipalities are also likely to involve civil society in the formulation and implementation of their SDG response, as partnership is a crucial principle of the 2030 Agenda.



To sum up, the logic and the mechanisms of the SDGs have generated a number of new functions, spaces and procedures where civil society can oversee and contribute to the SDG agenda. As described above, these will likely gain importance as the agenda fully sets down in the local planning and monitoring processes. Roma issues will have to argue their space in these emerging policy arenas.

2.3 Recommendations for Roma networks and activists

The above sections in this chapter have dealt with the contents and the processes in which the European Roma agenda meets the SDG framework. The process of localizing the SDG agenda, as described in section (1.3), will develop with certain institutional variation in each member state. It is equally important to monitor how regional and municipal authorities take on the SDG agenda, assign responsibilities and devise participation mechanisms. In the light of the above, it is necessary to quickly identify the emerging structures, actors and processes that ensure the response of the European institutions to align to the SDG agenda, namely in (a) planning, (b) budgeting and (c) reporting. Therefore, this section looks into specific steps that need to be taken into consideration.

¹⁶ The project “Capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening its involvement in the monitoring of national Roma integration strategies”, coordinated by Central European University, is implemented by a coalition of platforms, namely European Roma Grassroots Organisation Network (ERGO), European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), Fundacion Secretariado Gitano (FSG) and Roma Education Fund (REF) cps.ceu.edu/roma-civil-monitor

¹⁷ See the United States’ 2018 U.S. Cities SDGs Index “Leaving No U.S. City Behind” <http://unsdsn.org/resources/publications/leaving-no-u-s-city-behind-the-2018-u-s-cities-sdgs-index/>; see the Spanish report on 100 municipalities here: <http://reds-sdsn.es/comunicado-lanzamiento-informe-ods-ciudades>



At European level:



Find out how Roma issues are dealt with in the EU's SDG agenda.

- Check how the EU's response to the SDGs – in policies and indicators – overlaps with the EU Framework for NRIS and targets for inclusion and antigypsyism.
- Identify responsibilities inside the European Commission for the SDGs in general and for specific SDGs and define advocacy targets.
- Identify key issues and committees that deal with the 2030 Agenda in the European Parliament.
- Link with the European civil society SDG coalition and feed Roma inclusion and antigypsyism issues in wider claims.
- Raise the issue of disaggregated reporting on ethnic data with civil society and EU institutions.



Make connections with the SDG agenda when working towards a Post-2020 EU Roma Framework.

- The EU Roma Framework is coming to an end in 2020 and the discussion on a Post 2020 EU Roma Framework is on the way. SDGs should have a prominent place in the new framework, both as policy goals and means of measurement. Civil society needs to be prepared to relate the SDG agenda to the Framework.



Gather information on national SDG processes.

- Map how the SDGs are localised in EU member states, including institutional set-up and measurement framework.
- Collect good practices on national SDG action that takes into account the concerns of Roma communities.



Build the capacity of civil society.

- Support (pro-)Roma civil society in understanding the 2030 Agenda and build capacity to get involved in civil society reporting and other actions towards the SDGs.

At national level:



Raise awareness and generate debate.

- Discuss the SDG agenda and strategic options within the wider Roma community.



Find out how Roma issues are dealt with in the SDG response of national governments.

- Identify links between the National Roma Integration Strategy and the SDGs, including budget allocation.
- Identify the central structures within governments for leading the SDG agenda, and detect potential for cooperation with the political, social and environmental dimension.



Create partnerships and alliances.

- Identify how the national Parliament is involved in the national SDG agenda and what participation mechanisms are in place for civil society.
- Connect with the wider national civil society SDG coalition and use available mechanisms for engagement.



Identify competencies at regional and local level.

- Find out how the SDG agenda is transferred to the regional and local level and identify options for influencing the agenda and accessing SDG-related funds.

Annex – Key documents and further reading

United Nations: all UN documents, processes and events	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/
Transforming our world. 2015 declaration on the 2030 Agenda	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
Database – indicators and meta-data	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/
High Level Political Forum	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf
Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/
European Commission – SDG website	https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/global-topics/sustainable-development-goals_en
EuroStat - SDG indicators website	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview
OECD	http://www.oecd.org/dac/sustainable-development-goals.htm
The European Pillar of Social Rights in 20 principles	https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en
European Parliament: Europe's approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: Good practices and the way forward	http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EXPO_STU%282019%29603473
European Commission - Reflection Paper Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030 COM(2019)22	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2019:0022:FIN
Reference Paper on Antigypsyism	www.antigypsyism.eu

Annex – A selection of goals and targets

Relevant target and indicators



1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance



2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons



3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)

3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution

3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)

3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex



4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4.6.1 Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex



5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital

mutilation

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated

6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

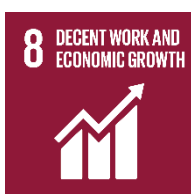




7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity

7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology



8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agricultural employment, by sex

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population





10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

	<p>10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers</p> <p>10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies</p> <p>10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination</p> <p>10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies</p>
	<p>11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p> <p>11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing</p> <p>11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons</p> <p>11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p> <p>11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries</p> <p>11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate</p> <p>11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically</p>
	<p>12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p> <p>12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP</p> <p>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p> <p>12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled</p>
	<p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>
	<p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development